

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6056**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 30

**NOTE PREPARED:** Mar 31, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:** Mar 29, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Committees, Commissions, & Authorities.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Alting

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. T. Brown

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill: (1) continues the Rail Corridor Safety Committee until November 1, 2010, and requires an additional report; (2) reestablishes the Government Efficiency Commission (which expired January 1, 2005) until January 1, 2006, and directs the Commission to make recommendations to the Governor concerning the advisability of continuing or modifying all boards and commissions; (3) directs the Governor to review the recommendations and submit those that will improve the efficiency and operation of state government to the Legislative Council for its review; (4) adds the following members to the Lake County Regional Transportation Authority: (A) the mayor of Valparaiso or the mayor's designee; (B) the mayor of Portage or the mayor's designee; and (C) a member of the Porter County Board of Commissioners or the member's designee and provides that the members appointed from Porter County may not vote on the distribution or payment of money by the authority unless Porter County pays a share of the authority's budget; and (5) establishes the Northwest Indiana Transportation, Infrastructure, and Economic Development Interim Study Commission.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Part (1)-* This bill extends the eight-member Rail Corridor Safety Committee for five additional years, with expiration on November 1, 2010. The Committee is to issue two reports to the Legislative Council regarding matters listed below before each of the following dates: (1) November 1, 2005, and (2) November 1, 2010. Staff and administrative support is to be provided by the Legislative Services Agency.

During the 2004 interim, study committees with fewer than 16 members were allocated \$8,000 from funds appropriated to the Legislative Council from the state General Fund.

*Background Information on the Rail Corridor Safety Committee:* The Committee shall do the following:

- (1) study the safety of rail corridors, including corridors at overpasses, underpasses, and crossings;
- (2) review railroad safety records;
- (3) study the methods of encouraging cooperation among the railroads, local government, state government, and the federal government to enhance the safety of railroads; and
- (4) study other topics as assigned by the Legislative Council.

*Part (2)* - The bill also reestablishes the Government Efficiency Commission (which expired January 1, 2005) until January 1, 2006. The Commission consists of two cochairmen, with one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, plus 20 members, with 10 members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and 10 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Members are not entitled to a salary per diem, but members are entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties, as provided in state travel rules or the state budget.

The Government Efficiency Commission is to do the following:

- (A) make recommendations to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary costs associated with any board or commission or state-funded agency, department, or program.
- (B) review and make recommendations to the Governor concerning each board or commission about the following:
  - (1) whether the board or commission should be continued, reorganized, or combined with another board, commission, or state agency.
  - (2) whether the board or commission should be terminated or allowed to expire.

The Commission may accept donations to carry out its functions. The Governor's office is to provide staff support to the Commission. The Commission is to provide its final recommendations before October 1, 2005, to the Governor. The Governor is to review the recommendations, and before November 1, 2005, submit a report to the Legislative Council recommending legislation necessary to carry out the recommendations that the Governor determines will improve the efficiency and operations of state government. The Legislative Council is to review and determine what legislation should be prepared in the 2006 regular session of the General Assembly.

*Part (3)* - The bill also directs the Governor to review the recommendations and submit those that will improve the efficiency and operation of state government to the Legislative Council for its review. This part will have no fiscal impact.

(Revised) *Part (5)* - The Northwest Indiana Transportation, Infrastructure, and Economic Development Coordination Interim Study Commission is established consisting of eight legislators and eight lay members. The committee is to operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$15,000 per interim for committees with 16 members or more.

The Commission is to do the following:

(A) review the planning, oversight, financing, and development of transportation services in northwest Indiana and recommend changes directed at:

- (1) improving the service delivery for all citizens of the region;
- (2) lowering long-term costs; and
- (3) consolidating organizational structures whenever possible.

(B) review planned expansion of transportation infrastructure developments as to cost, scheduling, oversight, and authorities involved with improving delivery and economic development potential.

(C) consider possible changes to economic development organizational structures and their financing across the region to facilitate economic growth and employment growth throughout northwest Indiana.

(D) review other infrastructure development projects vital to northwest Indiana and consider how those projects may be facilitated.

(E) research and report any potential sources of funding of a regional transportation authority.

(F) study any other topic assigned by the Legislative Council

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Part (4)* - To the extent that current members of the Lake County Regional Transportation Authority (LCRTA) receive compensation for their services, this proposal will increase expenditures to the LCRTA.

Requiring Porter County to pay a share of the LCRTA budget before the county may vote on the distribution or payment of money by the LCRTA will have an indeterminable fiscal impact.

*Background Information:* For CY 2002, the LCRTA reported no financial transactions, according to the State Board of Accounts. For CY 2003, the LCRTA received \$50,000, consisting of \$25,000 from Lake County and \$25,000 from the cities of Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago. As of March 2004, the LCRTA reported expenditures of \$33,800 and a cash balance of \$16,200. However, expenditure data was not sufficiently detailed to reflect any expenditures for current members of the LCRTA. The State Board of Accounts reports a budget \$148,000 for the LCRTA for CY 2004.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Legislative Services Agency; Governor's Office.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Valparaiso; Portage; Porter County Board of Commissioners; Lake County Regional Transportation Authority.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** James Sperlik, 317-232-9866.